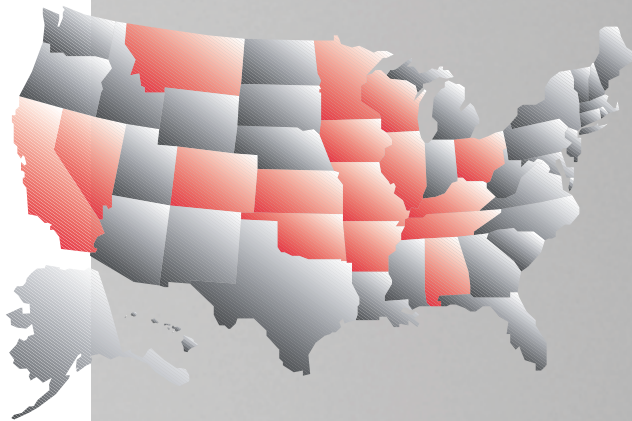


ACT State Organizations

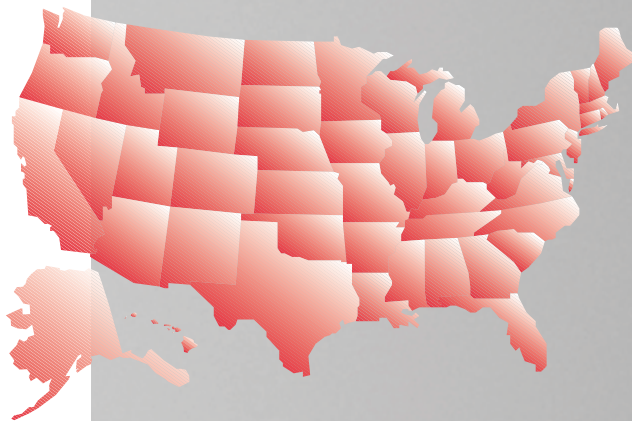
Fifty Years—1959 to 2009

1959



ACT

2009



ACT®



IOWA

ACT®

FIFTY YEARS 1959 | 2009

“Building a community of educators helping people achieve education and workplace success.”

This is the mission statement of the ACT State Organizations, which have been crucial to ACT’s growth as a provider of solutions that promote education and workforce readiness for individuals around the world. ACT’s management and staff have relied heavily on the network for advice both for ensuring that ACT’s programs and services remain relevant to the needs of students, schools, and colleges, and for designing new services responsive to the ever-changing challenges faced by those charged with preparing the nation’s people for education and workplace success.

The ACT State Organizations, consisting primarily of individuals in secondary and postsecondary institutions, have been in existence since ACT was founded in 1959. The network is widely credited with providing an effective communication channel for ensuring the relevance of ACT’s services.

Building a Network

The State Organizations were at the heart of ACT’s initial organizational structure. In 1959, ACT founders E.F. Lindquist and Ted McCarrel began organizing their professional colleagues—full-time employees of colleges and universities—into a network that would lay the foundation for the State Organizations.

The 16 states that joined in 1959 were Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. By the end of the school year, they were joined by Alaska, Idaho, and North Dakota.

The first ACT state coordinators were paid advisors who had direct involvement with ACT’s organization and development. Among their duties were communicating with high schools and colleges in their states; distributing materials such as announcements, publicity pieces, and registration forms to secondary and postsecondary institutions in their states; securing test facilities; handling registration forms; collecting fees; and forwarding reports to high schools and colleges. They also organized state advisory committees that eventually evolved into the State Organizations.

Upon ACT’s founding, McCarrel appointed regional directors to help State Organizations promote the ACT® test. By the time the first ACT test administration occurred in November 1959, the company had successfully recruited colleges and universities across the country to use ACT scores for college admissions.

In 1961, state coordinators became unpaid volunteers, serving as the governing body of and providing guidance to the organization. In subsequent years, steering committees were created. The role of the state coordinator evolved into that of state representative, a position that was either elected or appointed. When ACT established a 15-member Board of Trustees in 1965, state representatives filled eight of the seats,

giving State Organizations representation on the board. Also, new guidelines were created to determine how states could participate in the State Organization network.

Broadening the Scope

In July 2003, a task force was established to redefine the role of the State Organizations following changes to ACT’s governing structure. Prior to that time, many of the State Organizations worked primarily with postsecondary institutions. While ACT’s college admissions and placement exam continued to gain in popularity, ACT had expanded its scope to incorporate new audiences, including secondary educators, workforce professionals, and government administrators at the state and federal levels. As a result, ACT needed to broaden the composition and the role of its State Organizations. In 2004, the ACT Board of Directors adopted the recommendations of the task force. They included:

- Adopting a common statement of purpose for the State Organizations
- Developing and implementing an annual plan of work based on strategic objectives
- Adopting a set of principles addressing the organizational structure and membership of the State Organizations
- Updating the role of the state representative to emphasize the position’s leadership responsibilities
- Designing and implementing a State Organization leadership development program

State Organizations Today

As of ACT’s 50th anniversary in 2009, all 50 states are represented through the 44 ACT state and regional organizations across the country. These organizations have more than 8,000 members, and nearly 6,000 individuals attend the annual conferences. Generally, ACT State Organizations are led by a Council and an Executive Committee consisting of a State Representative, Chairperson, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, and Secretary.

Today, members of State Organizations provide advice and support to ACT. Their duties include:

- Serving as a communication link between educational institutions and agencies and ACT
- Coordinating and facilitating statewide professional development activities related to ACT’s mission
- Providing feedback on the utility and effectiveness of ACT programs and services
- Assisting ACT regional staff in identifying state service needs
- Providing input and advice on future ACT programs and services
- Identifying exemplary applications of ACT programs and services

ACT STATE ORGANIZATIONS

MISSION

Building a community of educators helping people achieve education and workforce success

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

ACT state organizations support and promote informed decision making by:

- Individuals engaged in education and career planning, preparation for further education and work, and lifelong learning
- Parties who are making or influencing decisions by those individuals

The Iowa ACT State Organization

In 1958, the Iowa College Testing Program was formed, representing three state postsecondary institutions, junior colleges, and private four-year colleges. The following year, this program became the official ACT State Organization for Iowa. There was a reorganization in 1966, and bylaws were adopted in 1970.

Today, the Iowa ACT State Organization sponsors an annual conference that draws more than 200 participants from across the state and has a membership of more than 400 secondary and postsecondary educators and administrators. It presents the ACT 36er Award to high schools in the state that have one or more students who achieved a top score of 36. In addition, it honors middle and high schools with the Red Quill Award for schools that have done an exceptional job of utilizing, implementing, and integrating any of ACT's college readiness assessments with students, faculty, and parents.

Past Iowa ACT State Representatives

- 1959–1965 Ted McCarrel, Dean of Admissions and Records, University of Iowa
- 1965–1966 Donald Rhoades, Dean of Student Services, University of Iowa
- 1967–1982 Gordon Rhum, Professor of Education and Assistant to the Dean of the College of Education, University of Northern Iowa
- 1982–1989 Clifford Bunting, Dean of Student Affairs, University of Dubuque
- 1989–2003 Neil Mandsager, Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Marketing, Eastern Iowa Community College District
- 2003–2004 Blair Thielen, Educator and Counselor, Columbus High School
- 2004–2009 Michael Barron, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services and Director of Admissions, University of Iowa

State Representatives are elected by the members of the State Organization to serve a term of three years, serving no more than three full consecutive terms.

State Representatives' duties and responsibilities include:

- Serving as a voting member of the Executive Committee and the Council
- Representing the views and interests of members of the State Organization
- Facilitating communications between ACT staff in its regional and national office and the members of the State Organization
- Reporting to the members of the State Organization on significant developments regarding ACT programs and services



Iowa Colleges and Universities That Have Accepted the ACT Since 1959

Ashford University
 Briar Cliff University
 Buena Vista University
 Central College
 Clarke College
 Clinton Community College
 Des Moines Area Community College
 Dordt College
 Drake University
 Ellsworth Community College
 Graceland University
 Grand View University
 Indian Hills Community College
 Iowa Central Community College
 Iowa Lakes Community College
 Iowa State University
 Iowa Wesleyan College
 Iowa Western Community College

Loras College
 Luther College
 Morningside College
 Mount Mercy College
 Muscatine Community College
 North Iowa Area Community College
 Northwestern College
 Simpson College
 Southeastern Community College
 Southwest Community College
 St. Ambrose University
 The University of Iowa
 University of Dubuque
 University of Northern Iowa
 Upper Iowa University
 Waldorf College
 Wartburg College
 William Penn University

Current Iowa ACT State Organization Council*

ACT State Representative

Michael Barron
 Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services
 and Director of Admissions
 The University of Iowa

Chairperson

Blair Thielen
 School Counselor
 Waterloo West High School

Chair-Elect

Jeff Burchfield
 Principal
 Riverbend Middle School

Past Chair

Amy Lasack
 Skills Advantage Program Director
 Kirkwood Community College

Secretary

Jason Woods
 Director of Admissions
 Ashford University

ACT Liaison

Debra FitzGerald
 Consultant, Postsecondary Services
 ACT Midwest Region

Tom Budnik
 Principal
 St. Cecilia Catholic School

Phil Caffrey
 Senior Associate Director of
 Admissions
 Iowa State University

Lisa Cash-Wiese
 Advisor and COMPASS® Coordinator
 Iowa Valley Community College

Michael Droll
 School Counselor
 Tipton High School

Jean Neibauer
 Director, Academic Advising
 University of Northern Iowa

Marie Peeters
 Human Resources Manager
 Mercy Iowa City

Mark Petty
 Dean of Admissions
 Iowa Wesleyan College

Linda Shearer
 Corning Alumni Director
 Corning High School

Jan Snyder
 Vice President, Student and Institutional
 Development
 Northwest Iowa Community College

Xiaoping Wang
 Administrative Consultant
 Iowa Department of Education

Marilyn Werner
 Assessment Coordinator
 Southwestern Community College

*As of May 2009

